



**US Army Corps
of Engineers.**
Construction Engineering
Research Laboratory

Fact Sheet

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BLAST STRATEGIC SUPPORT CENTER

The Problem

The U.S. Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL) developed the Building Loads Analysis and System Thermodynamics (BLAST) system to help designers calculate building loads and select the optimal heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) system for a building. The BLAST family is a comprehensive set of computer programs that create energy models, perform energy analyses, and predict energy system performance and life cycle cost in buildings. BLAST users need to have adequate support and information to help them use the programs effectively.

The Technology

After CERL released BLAST Version 3.0, the Building Systems Laboratory (BSL) was established at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of Mechanical Engineering, to provide strategic support for users of the BLAST family of programs. Specific programs in the BLAST family, in addition to BLAST itself, include: HBLC, a BLAST input preprocessor; LCCID, the Life Cycle Cost in Design program; WTHRPT, weather data reporting; and REPWRT, a report writer for BLAST data. There is a cadre of other supporting programs as well, such as comfort reporting on an annual basis and assisting in defining inputs for their chillers, heat pumps, and other equipment.

The BSL answers user questions about day-to-day use of the programs; performs maintenance and enhancements of the programs; provides technical support via e-mail, FAX, or mail; distributes manuals, documentation, and software; and provides training in BLAST for both new and advanced users. Academic personnel, ranging from undergraduate students to professors, staff the office.

Benefits/Savings

The BSL provides users with a convenient, centralized information source for the BLAST family of programs. By offering support to users, the BSO helps ensure that users find the most energy-efficient HVAC system at the least life-cycle cost.

Status

In September 1998, BSL released the "final" version of BLAST. With the development and upcoming release of EnergyPlus, coupled with decreased funding for BLAST, this final release will not be actively enhanced. The final release CD-ROM contains all source, over 300

weather files, over 50 technical articles about BLAST, and a convenient install for the Family of Programs.

BSL is a self-subsidized support center and all support funding is derived from their sales. As such, users may be required to provide funds if special projects are required to support the user's requests.

Points of Contact

The BSL can be reached at COMM 217-333-3977; FAX 217-244-6534; or BSL, 140 Mechanical Engineering Building, 1206 West Green Street, Urbana, IL 61801. E-mail support address is <http://www.support@blast.bso.uiuc.edu>. Director of BSL is Professor Curtis Pedersen.

CERL POC is Linda K. Lawrie, COMM 217-373-7260; toll-free 800-USA-CERL; FAX 217-373-6724; e-mail <http://www.l-lawrie@cecer.army.mil>; or CERL, ATTN: CECER-CF-N, P.O. Box 9005, Champaign, IL 61826-9005.

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